

REMARKS

On April 11, 2003, Application filed a Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3) to accept a claim of priority delayed unintentionally. Attorney for Applicant subsequently received a telephone call from Examiner Douglas Wood requesting Applicant to submit an amendment to the specification in order to correct the priority claim. Upon receipt of Applicant's Amendment submitted on July 29, 2003, Examiner Wood requested a substitute Amendment to further clarify Applicant's priority claim. Applicant therefore submits this substitute Amendment in connection with that Petition in order to properly claim priority to the prior-filed applications, to clarify that the instant U.S. non-provisional application is a continuation of international application serial no. PCT/BR99/00084, filed on October 13, 1999, which in turn claims priority to a Brazilian patent application, Application No. 9804529-6, filed on October 23, 1998. Applicant respectfully requests that this substitute Amendment be entered in lieu of the Amendment submitted on July 29, 2003.

Applicant notes that the present Amendment does not address the substantive issues of the Office Action dated April 2, 2003. Applicant will address those issues, including a requirement to submit a substitute specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(a), in a separately-filed Amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the Amendment submitted herein fulfills the formal requirements of the Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(3) filed on April 11, 2003, and respectfully requests that said Petition be considered and granted.

Dated: July 31, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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